

LIMEHURST
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report,
1906.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE :
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

LIMEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as to the Sanitary condition of your District for 1906.

BOUNDARIES.—The District lies mainly between the County Borough of Oldham on the north, the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne on the south, the Borough of Mossley on the east, and the Urban Districts of Failsworth and Droylsden on the west. In addition there is a portion altogether detached, and surrounded by the Springhead and Lees Urban Districts and the County Borough of Oldham. The extent of the District being shown in that it is five miles across (crowflight) from N.E. to S.W.

AREA AND POPULATION.—The Parishes comprising the District are as follows :—

	Acres.	Population.
Alt	1110	1037
Bardsley	893	2194
Cross Bank (detached).....	82	1077
Hartshead	1011	745
Little Moss.....	709	595
Waterloo.....	342	3858
Woodhouses	622	832
Totals.....	4769	10338

The population being 1901 census—10338, an increase of 1318 persons during the previous decade.

With the exception of the parishes of Cross Bank, Bardsley, and Waterloo, the District is entirely rural and varies in height from 250 feet to 950 feet above Ordnance datum. The District lies upon the grit and coal formations.

POPULATION, 1891 (Census)	9020
,, 1901 ,, ...	10338
,, 1906 (estimated)	10700

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS, March Quarter.....	59	RATE.....	21'96
,, June ,, ...	73	,, ...	27'29
,, September ,, ...	75	,, ...	28'03
,, December ,, ...	68	,, ...	25'42

The total number of Births registered for the year was 275. Males, 146; Females, 129; rate, 25'70.

Birth rate for the past six years :—

1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906
26'60	... 30'43	... 26'78	... 25'14	... 26'35	... 25'70

DEATHS. March Quarter.....	30	RATE.....	11'21
,, June ,, ...	26	,, ...	9'71
,, September ,, ...	40	,, ...	14'95
,, December ,, ...	38	,, ...	14'18

The total number of Deaths registered for the year was 134. Males, 68; Females, 66; rate, 12'52.

Death rate for the past six years :—

1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906
16'31	... 14'21	... 15'47	... 14'77	... 13'45	... 12'52

This year's death rate is the lowest that has ever been recorded.

INFANTILE MORTALITY—The proportion of Deaths of children under one year to each 1,000 registered births is equal to 123.

At the end of my report, Table V. gives an analysis of the causes and time of occurrence, in weeks and months, of deaths under one year. It will be seen that twenty-three per cent. of the total of 34 occurred under one month. Between the ages of one month and twelve months 10 deaths were caused by Diarrhœa, two in August, six in September, and two in October. These latter deaths I should attribute to the exceptional warm weather during these months.

Registered Deaths of children under one year, 34 ; rate, 3·17.

„ „ „ under five years, 49 ; rate, 4·57.

ZYMOTIC CLASS OF DISEASES.—Deaths, 16 ; rate, 1·49.

Smallpox—None.

Scarlet Fever—None.

Enteric Fever—None.

Membranous Croup—One death.

Measles—Four deaths.

Whooping Cough—None.

Diarrhœa—Eleven deaths.

Phthisis—Fourteen deaths ; rate, 1·30.

DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES, 22 ; rate, 2·56.
Comprising Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN EACH PARISH.

Alt, 10 ; Bardsley, 36 ; Cross Bank, 17 ; Hartshead, 6 ;
Little Moss, 4 ; Waterloo, 46 ; Woodhouses, 15. Total, 134.

DIARRHŒA.—Of the 11 deaths from this disease two occurred in Bardsley, seven in Waterloo, and two in Alt.

PHTHISIS.—One death at Bardsley, one at Cross Bank, one at Little Moss, eight at Waterloo, three at Woodhouses.

MEASLES.—On October 6th, I received information of several cases of Measles at Bardsley. On inquiry I found that the attendance at the Infant Schools, Bardsley, was 45 per cent. below normal. I closed the school on October 8th for a month. Three deaths occurred in this parish—two in October, one in December. A similar outbreak commenced at Woodhouses. In this case I found that at the Church and the British Schools the attendance in the first case had dropped 33 per cent., in the latter 50 per cent. I closed both schools on November 5th, re-opening them on the 25th. No deaths took place in this parish, but a death occurred at Cross Bank during December.

In both cases Measles being a non-notifiable disease in Limehurst I had to get the sanction of two members of the Council, in accordance with the Education Act, before closing any of the schools.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—During the year 48 cases of infectious disease have been notified, as follows:—

Smallpox	23
Scarlet Fever.....	23
Membranous Croup	1
Erysipelas	1
Total	<u>48</u>

These have occurred in the Parishes as follows:—

Alt.....	9	Scarlet Fever.
Bardsley	3	Smallpox, 3 Scarlet Fever, 1 Mem- branous Croup.
Cross Bank.....	6	Scarlet Fever, 1 Erysipelas.
Hartshead	Nil.	
Little Moss.....	Nil.	
Waterloo	20	Smallpox, 2 Scarlet Fever.
Woodhouses ...	3	Scarlet Fever.

SMALLPOX.—During the year there were 23 cases reported, 10 were vaccinated, 13 unvaccinated. The disease was prevalent during the following months : One case in January, one in April, four in June, 12 in July, three in August, one in November, one in December. Twenty of the cases occurred in Waterloo, three at Bardsley. Fifty per cent. were under 15 years of age.

On the evening of July 21st, I received information that a man named Ashton, of 30, Gordon Street, Waterloo, had knowingly taken three of his children, who were infected with the disease, to a small hut, on the Ashton-under-Lyne Moss near by. After an extensive search they were found and removed to Hospital the following morning. The man was afterwards prosecuted, and a conviction obtained for exposing his children whilst suffering from an infectious disease.

All the cases were removed to the Joint Hospital at Hartshead immediately on notification, none of them terminating fatally.

SCARLET FEVER.—Twenty-three cases were reported during the year. Eleven of them occurred during the March quarter, the remaining cases being spread over the ensuing months. Wherever a case appeared it was isolated at home, and on its recovery the place was thoroughly fumigated and the bedding, &c. disinfected.

On December 18th I received a telephonic communication concerning a case—a girl, aged 15 years, in the employ and living at the Oldham Golf Club, Lees Road, Alt. My Inspector visited the place and found it in rather an insanitary condition. He suggested several improvements, which have since been carried out. The case was removed, at the expense of the members of the Club, to West Hulme Hospital, Oldham, there being no place for receiving such cases in our District.

In all other cases of infectious disease the houses, bedding, &c., were fumigated and disinfected. Disinfecting powder and fluid is supplied free.

INDUSTRIES.—The main industry is that of cotton spinning and manufacturing.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—There are in the district seven cotton mills, two print and bleach works, three iron and roller works one wheelwright's shop, one rope works, one medicated sweet works, five quarries, and one colliery. Every mill and workshop has been systematically visited and inspected, and I find that the owners pay every possible attention to their sanitary arrangements and the health and safety of the persons employed therein. All are provided with adequate means of escape in case of fire, and in every case are found modern in construction and within the requirements of the Act.

With regard to Sections 107-110 of this Act, dealing with Home Work—*i.e.*, where work is done for factory or workshop at home—I advised my Inspector to make searching inquiries. This he has done, and has failed to find any case of the work mentioned being carried out at home. This is due probably to the fact that the majority of the people in this district have been trained from an early age for work in the numerous cotton factories in and around the district; and in the spinning of yarn and manufacture of cloth there is no process which can be carried out at the home of the employé

SMOKE NUISANCE.—During the year several smoke observations have been taken of mill and workshop chimneys. Owners are particularly careful to prevent the emission of black smoke, and no cause for complaint has arisen in this respect.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—The house accommodation is fairly adequate, being mainly of the cottage or artisan class, with a sufficiency of air-space surrounding them, and the streets not less than 12 yards in width. In one or two lots of property brought to my notice the closet accommodation is insufficient; the owners have been instructed how to rectify this nuisance. The privy ashpit system is gradually being replaced by the fresh and waste-water system, and the Council is now applying for powers to do away with the old method of emptying ashpits, &c., by the landlord or tenant, which has lately given rise to numerous complaints and been

the cause of a great deal of trouble. During the year nine houses were condemned, three of these were demolished and six made habitable. The average number of persons per house in this district is about four.

In the Parishes of Bardsley, Cross Bank, Waterloo, and Little Moss, the Parish Councils have adopted and put into operation the Lighting and Watching Act.

WATER SUPPLY.—The main water supply is obtained from the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield Joint Water Board, and Oldham Corporation Works. A very small area is still dependent upon springs and wells, but being the upland portion of the District, the danger of pollution to the wells is remote.

DRAINAGE.—Three Sewage Works are in use for the contributory districts of Bardsley, Cross Bank, and Waterloo; the works for Cross Bank being situate outside the boundary of the Limehurst Rural District Council. Connections in the three Parishes are being rapidly pushed forward. From personal inspections, I find that the house drains are, with a few exceptions, trapped and disconnected. Several conversions to the waste water flush closets have been carried out during the year. A scheme to deal with the drainage of the Parishes of Little Moss and Woodhouses is in the course of preparation.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are five slaughter-houses in the district, which are kept under strict supervision, surprise visits being frequently made. All are found clean and well whitewashed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES, &c.—There are no underground bakehouses or offensive trades within the district.

FARMS, COWSHEDS, AND DAIRIES.—There are between 120 and 130 farmsteads in your district, extending over a very large area. Some of these are in a very delapidated condition. In the cowsheds the amount of air space per cow is insufficient, and is detrimental to the supply of pure milk. Your attention has previously been drawn to this matter.

AN ABSTRACT OF WORK DONE DURING THE TWELVE
MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1906, AS
TAKEN FROM THE SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR'S REPORT BOOK.

Number of cases entered in the report book.....	187
Do. notices served	97
Do. cases attended to without notice.....	75
Do. connections made to the public sewers.....	119
Do. dangerous buildings	8
Ashpits and closets repaired and emptied.....	68
Slopstone, &c., waste pipes disconnected	12
Flooded cellars	2
House drains, &c., cleansed and repaired	33

236 lineal yards of 12-inch and 133 lineal yards of 9-inch sewers, together with manholes, &c., have been laid during the year.

Plans were approved for the following :—

Houses, 44. Additions, 4. Additions to Works, 4. Sheds, &c., 8. Shippon, 1. Slaughter-house, 1. Pigstyes, 21. Stable, 1. Closets, &c., 11.

Action taken under "The Housing of the Working
Classes Acts" None.

Number of houses condemned.....	9
Do. demolished.....	3
Do. made habitable.....	6
Do. closed ..	None.
Do. tenanted	2269
Do. empty	68

Also the Barracks.

Number of privy middens	about 500
Do. pail closets.....	„ 80
Do. fresh water closets	„ 50
Do. waste-water closets	„ 200

TABLE I.
BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
1896	9420	324	34.39	40	123	167	17.71	167	17.71
1897	9420	349	37.05	51	146	157	16.39	157	16.39
1898	9420	300	31.79	48	160	179	18.99	179	18.99
1899	9420	301	32.16	50	166	194	20.59	194	20.59
1900	9420	311	33.01	57	183	210	22.29	210	22.29
1901	10338	275	26.60	40	166	165	16.31	165	16.31
1902	10338	317	30.43	38	119	147	14.21	147	14.21
1903	10338	277	26.78	47	169	160	15.47	160	15.47
1904	10700	269	25.14	38	141	158	14.77	158	14.77
1905	10700	282	26.35	32	112	144	13.45	144	13.45
Averages for Years 1896-1905.		300	30.37	44	148	168	17.01	168	17.01
1906	10700	275	25.70	34	123	134	12.52	134	12.52

* Rates calculated per 1000 of Estimated Population.

Area of District in acres..... 4769. Total Population at all ages, Census 1901.....10338.

TABLE II.
BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1896	9420	324	167	40
1897	9420	349	157	51
1898	9420	300	179	48
1899	9420	301	194	50
1900	9420	311	210	57
1901	10338	275	165	40
1902	10338	317	147	38
1903	10338	277	160	47
1904	10700	269	158	38
1905	10700	282	144	32
Averages of Years 1896 to 1905. }	9951	300	168	44
1906	10700	275	134	34

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1906.

Notifiable Disease	At all Ages	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 & upwards
Smallpox ...	23 ...	0 ...	0 ...	9 ...	5 ...	8 ...	1
Cholera	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Diphtheria ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Membranous Croup	1 ...	0 ...	0 ...	1 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Erysipelas ...	1 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	1 ...	0
Scarlet Fever ...	23 ...	0 ...	0 ...	2 ...	16 ...	5 ...	0
Typhus Fever	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Enteric Fever ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Relapsing Fever .	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Continued Fever...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Plague	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Totals.....	48	0	0	12	21	14	1

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING 1906.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.								
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.		
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria & Mem- branous Croup ...	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Croup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fever {	Typhus ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Enteric	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other contin'd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epidemic Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhœa, &c.....	14	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteritis	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Septic Dis- eases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis	14	0	0	1	1	11	1	1	1
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	5	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease	7	0	0	0	0	6	1	1	1
Bronchitis	8	1	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Pneumonia	13	3	4	1	1	2	2	2	2
Pleurisy ..	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other Diseases of Respira. Organs.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alcoholism	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cirrhosis of Liver }									
Venereal Diseases.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Premature Birth...	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diseas. & Accidents of Parturition ..	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Heart Diseases ...	14	0	0	0	0	5	9	9	9
Accidents	11	1	1	0	3	6	0	0	0
Suicides									
All other causes ...	34	9	3	0	1	10	11	11	11
All causes	134	34	15	4	7	46	28	28	28

TABLE V. INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1906.
DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under one Year
Common Infectious Diseases	Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chicken-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Diphtheria: Croup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Whooping Cough.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Diarrhoea, all forms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>).	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Catarrh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wasting Diseases	Premature Birth.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Congenital Defects	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Injury at Birth	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Want of Breast-milk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculous Diseases	Tuberculous Meningitis.....	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Tuberculous Peritonitis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Tabes Mesenterica.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Tuberculous Diseases.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Syphilis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rickets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Convulsions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Laryngitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Suffocation, overlaying.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Causes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals.....	3	2	2	1	8	5	5	2	2	1	2	4	1	3	0	1	34

